

## NRCS FEDERALLY ASSISTED AND CONDUCTED PROGRAMS

1. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs (NRCS)	2. Assisted or Conducted	2 (a). Intended recipients	3. Statutory Authorization	4. Brief description of Program
Agricultural Management Assistance	Conducted	Agricultural Producers who must have control of the land for a period of the contract running a minimum duration of one year after completion of the last practice, but not more than 10 years.	Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000, Title I, Part Subtitle C, Section 524b, Public Law 106-224, 114 Stat. 387, 7 U.S.C 1524.	The program provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming. AMA is available in one of these 16 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program	Conducted	Eligible agricultural producers must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions and in compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) payment limitations.	The Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, 16 U.S.C 3801, as amended by The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Part Subtitle F, Section 2510, Public Law 110-234, 122 Stat. 1064, 16 U.S.C 3839aa-9.	Under AWEP, the NRCS enters into partnership agreements with eligible entities and organizations that want to promote ground and surface water conservation or improve water quality on agricultural lands. After the Chief has announced approved AWEP project areas, eligible agricultural producers may submit a program application. Each fiscal year, NRCS may make AWEP financial and technical assistance available to eligible owners and operators of agricultural lands who participate in approved AWEP project areas.  Partners may assist NRCS by identifying producers in the project area. Partners may also assist producers in submitting applications for the program. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program	Conducted	Only agricultural producers owning or operating within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are eligible to participate in CBWP.	The Food Security Act of 1985, Title , Part , Public Law 99-198, U.S.C , as amended by The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Part Subtitle G, Section 2605, Public Law 110-234, 122 Stat. 1064, 16 U.S.C 3839bb.	The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program (CBWP) helps agricultural producers improve water quality and quantity, and restore, enhance, and preserve soil, air, and related resources in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed through the implementation of conservation practices. These conservation practices reduce soil erosion and nutrient levels in ground and surface water; improve, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat; and help address air quality and related natural resource concerns. CBWP encompasses all tributaries, backwaters, and side channels, including their watersheds, draining into the Chesapeake Bay.
Conservation Security Program (Archive)	Conducted	Farmers and Ranchers in selected watersheds who meet minimum eligibility water and soil quality criteria.	Food Security Act of 1985, Executive Order , Title XII, Part Chapter 2, Section Subchapter A, Public Law 99-198, 16 U.S.C 3801et.seq., as amended by Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Title II, Part Subtitle A, Section 2001, Public Law 107-171, 116 Stat. 223, 16 U.S.C 3838.	CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and rangeland, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agricultural operation.

Conservation Stewardship Program	<b>Assisted</b>	The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program.	Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 106-224, Stat. 16 U.S.C 3838h.	<p>Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.</p> <p>CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis.</p>
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	<b>Assisted</b>	Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor.	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, 123 Stat. 117; Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950, Section 216, Public Law 81-516, 33 U.S.C 701b; the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, Section 403, Public Law 95-334, 33 U.S.C 701B-1; Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Title III, Part Subtitle H, Section 382, Public Law 104-127, 110 Stat. 1016, 16 U.S.C 2203.	The EWP Program is to assist sponsors, landowners, and operators in implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.
Environmental Quality Incentive Program	<b>Conducted</b>	Agricultural producers who face serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources, or who need assistance with complying with Federal and State environment laws. A participant may be an owner, landlord, operator, or tenant of eligible agricultural lands or non-industrial forestlands. Limited resource producers, small-scale producers, social disadvantaged individuals, Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Alaska	The Food Security Act of 1985, Executive Order, Title XII, Part Subtitle D, Public Law 99- 198, 16 U.S.C 3830.	Promotes agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible national goals and optimizes environmental benefits on eligible land with farmers, ranchers, and non-industrial private forest land owners. It is a voluntary program using partnerships with local, State, Tribal and Federal agencies, producer associations, and nonprofit organizations to provide flexible technical and financial assistance to install and maintain conservation practices include those related to organic production, that sustain food and fiber production. The purpose of this program is achieved through the implementation of structural, vegetative, and land management practices on eligible land. This program is funded through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). NRCS provides overall program administration and management.

		natives, and Pacific Islanders are encouraged to apply.		
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	<b>Conducted</b>	An eligible entities is any local or State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that has a farmland protection program that purchases conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use and related conservation values by limiting conversion to non- agricultural uses of land, and that has pending offers may apply for funds.	Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, 16 U.S.C 3830.	This program provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.
Grassland Reserve Program	<b>Conducted</b>	Owners of privately owned lands.	Food Security Act of 1985 (16 USC 3838n) as amended. Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 199-198.	<p>The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.</p> <p>Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. A grazing management plan is required for participants.</p>
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)	<b>Conducted</b>	A landowner of eligible private land for which enrollment is sought; agree to provide such information to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as the Agency deems necessary or desirable to assist in its determination of eligibility for program benefits and for other program implementation purposes.	Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, Title V, Section 501, Public Law 108-148, 117 Stat. 1911, 16 U.S.C 6571-6578.	To assist landowners, on a voluntary basis, in restoring, enhancing and protecting forestland resources on private lands through easements, 30-year contracts and 10-year cost-share agreements to promote the recovery of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); improve plant and animal biodiversity; and enhance carbon sequestration.

Plant Materials for Conservation	<b>Assisted</b>	Any State and Federal agencies and cooperators of conservation districts where structured evaluations are conducted and commercial seed growers and nurserymen interested in the commercial production of selected plant materials. The general public is not eligible to participate in this program.	Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 74-46, 16 U.S.C 590a-f.	Plant materials are used in all phases of the soil and water conservation program. This program emphasizes field testing to determine the plant's value and restoration techniques. It is limited to the properties of conservation cooperators properties in conjunction with soil conservation districts, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Crop Improvement Associations and other Federal and State agencies. The program also provides commercial seed growers with breeder and foundation quality seed or propagates through state Crop Improvement Associations or Foundations Seed Services. Other plants or seed are not provided to the general public. Large-scale production is conducted by cooperating commercial producers. Free plants, seed and/or grants are not available to nurseries or the public.
Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting	<b>Assisted</b>	General public, including those located in the U.S. Territories.	Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 74-76, 16 U.S.C 590 a-f.	To provide reliable, accurate and timely forecasts of surface water supply to water managers in the water users and water managers in the west. To efficiently obtain, manage, and disseminate high quality data and information on snow, water, climate, and hydrologic conditions. To provide climate data to support NRCS conservation planning tools.
Soil Survey Program	<b>Assisted</b>	All individuals and groups that have a need for soil survey information can access it on the Web Soil Survey at <a href="http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov">websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov</a> or by contacting the local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office.	Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 74-46, 16 U.S.C 590; The Soil Information Assistance for Community Planning and Resource Development Act of 1966, Public Law 89-560.	The NRCS soil survey program is carried out under the auspices of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The NRCS collects soil data, establishes standards for inventorying, describing and interpreting soils, makes maps and databases, interprets the maps and data, promotes their use, conducts research, assists nationally and internationally with the wise use of soil resources, responds to needs of users of soil survey information, and develops and enhances the skills of pedologists.
Soil and Water Conservation	<b>Assisted</b>	General public, State and local governments.	Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 74-76, N/A Stat. N/A, 16 U.S.C 590 a-f.	Provide conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations through a national network of locally-respected, technically-skilled, professional conservationists and assist them in conserving, improving and sustaining our natural resources and environment.
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program	<b>Assisted</b>	Any State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention or flood control district, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or any other nonprofit agency with authority under State law to carry out, maintain, and operate watershed works of improvement may apply for assistance.	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5; Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, 68 Stat. 666, as amended; Public Law 84-1018, 70 Stat. 1088; Public Law 85-865, 72 Stat. 1605; Public Law 86-468, 74 Stat. 131, 132; Public Law 86-545, 74 Stat. 254; Public Law 87-703, 76 Stat. 608; Public Law 90-361, 82 Stat. 250.	To provide technical and financial assistance in carrying out works of improvement to protect, develop, and utilize the land and water resources in watersheds.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program	<b>Assisted</b>	Any State agency, county or groups of counties, municipality, town or township, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention or flood control district, Indian tribe or tribal organization, or any other nonprofit agency with authority under State law to carry out, maintain, and operate watershed works of improvement may become a sponsoring local organization for a watershed rehabilitation project.	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5; Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, 68 Stat. 666.	Technical assistance is provided in planning, designing, and implementing watershed rehabilitation works of improvement. Financial assistance is provided for sharing costs of measures for watershed rehabilitation projects. Watershed rehabilitation projects may include reconstruction or decommissioning of the dam and relocation or flood proofing of downstream property. Technical assistance is provided in planning, designing, and implementing watershed rehabilitation works of improvement. Financial assistance is provided for sharing costs of measures for watershed rehabilitation projects. Watershed rehabilitation projects may include reconstruction or decommissioning of the dam and relocation or flood proofing of downstream property.
Wetlands Reserve Program	<b>Conducted</b>	An individual landowner, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, other business enterprises or other legal entities and, Indian tribe.	Food Security Act of 1985, Title XII, Part Subtitle D, Section 1237, Public Law 99-198, 99 Stat. 1504, 16 U.S.C 3831.	The program is voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection.
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	<b>Conducted</b>	Private Landowners and some state/public lands A participant may be an owner, landlord, operator, or tenant of eligible lands. Limited resource producers, small-scale producers, producers of minority groups, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, Alaska natives, and Pacific Islanders are encouraged to apply.	Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1244h, Public Law 99-198, 16.S.C 3831.	To help participants protect, restore, develop or enhance habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fisheries, and other types of wildlife.